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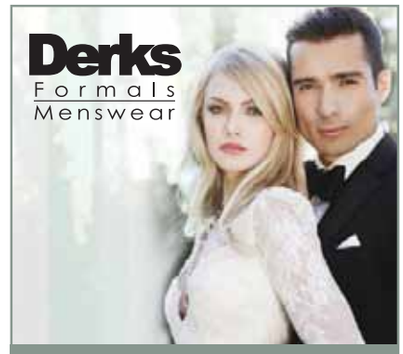

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LETTUCE TALK RUBBER

Dae-Kyun Ro, an associate professor at the University of Calgary, has spent seven years preparing a prototype of rubber-producing lettuce. Here, he punctures the stem to produce beads of natural rubber. Story, page 6. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Delays may derail new-schools plan

Facilities. Minister says some schools may come 'a bit later'

Alberta's infrastructure boss is warning a past promise to pony up the funds in 2015 to keep construction of 55 new schools on track may miss the mark.

On Dec. 2, Infrastructure Minister Manmeet Bhullar said funds would "absolutely" be provided in 2015 to keep the buildings on track to open no later than September 2018.

His comments came after a claim by the Calgary Board of Education that it would need nearly $197 million by mid-year to have eight new schools and two modernization projects ready on time.

Bhullar said at the time that "the premier has been incredibly clear: these schools will be built, they'll be built within the time frame, simple as that."

Fast forward to a follow-up interview this week in which Bhullar said it would be "premature" to comment on the status of each school pledged by Prentice in the $2-billion package rolled out during a byelection campaign the premier himself was involved in.

"I think things will be moving forward on a case-by-case basis, addressing highest-need areas," Bhullar said.

"The intention is still to build the schools in the shortest period of time in the most fiscally prudent manner," Bhullar added.

NDP education critic Deron Bilous pointed to reports of students being taught on gym stages and in staff rooms as indication of a long history of broken Tory promises when it comes to school infrastructure.

"School boards are beyond capacity," Bilous said. "The point of this isn't just to have a desk for Johnny or Suzy; this is directly affecting the quality of education that students are getting.... It's going to have a serious impact on the future of Alberta because this affects the quality of education of future generations."

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

More impacts of Alberta's sagging finances: Hundreds rally to demand province build cancer centre — *Page 4. Parents feel pain of school lotteries — Page 11.*

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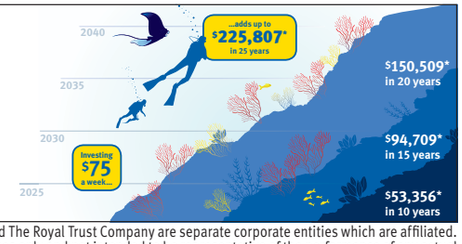

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NEWS 1

Cochrane.
Appeal denied in fatal road incident

A man who had appealed his sentence after he was convicted of killing 17-year-old Brandon Thomas while driving drunk in 2012 had his appeal rejected on Wednesday.

Ryan Gibson pleaded guilty to impaired driving causing death and impaired driving causing bodily harm. He was sentenced to 32 months behind bars in 2014 after he drove his truck into oncoming traffic on Highway 22 from Cochrane in December of 2012.

Gibson hit two vehicles before colliding with the car that was Thomas was driving.

Brandon's mother, Kim Thomas, told Metro the dismissal of the appeal was what the family was hoping for, but noted the fact Gibson was released on parole in November after only six months of his sentence sends the wrong message to the public.

"Even with the appeal being dismissed, I don't believe that a six-month incarceration in a minimum-security facility sends the right message to the public," she said. "It shows that there's no value for innocent human lives, it shows the impaired drivers that there's no consequence for putting the public at risk."

The Court of Appeal ruled that an original joint submission from the Crown and the defence was "unfit" for a number of reasons, including the fact Gibson chose to drive while impaired and the gravity of the offence.

While the courts won't be increasing Gibson's sentence, they noted a four to five years "could easily be justified."

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Closed-circuit video captured the suspects' attempt to make off with a Calgary casino's ATM. In this shot, you can see, top right, the machine toppled onto one of the robbers. See the full video at metronews.ca. COURTESY CALGARY POLICE SERVICE

Empty ATM stolen from Casino Calgary

Crime. Damage caused in similar incidents is far more than amount taken by thieves: Police

MORGAN MODJESKI
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Thieves who stole an ATM from Casino Calgary on Wednesday morning may be disappointed, as officials say it carried no cash at the time.

"As far as I know, the ATM was actually empty," said Vince Pao, director of marketing with Pure Canadian Gaming, which operates Casino Calgary.

"Our Casino procedures, unfortunately, I can't speak too much on them," he said. "But machines are of course filled at certain periods during the day and pulled and counted during certain times of the day as well."

Pao said casino administration consider the safety and security of both staff and patrons a top priority, and feel Tuesday's robbery was a "very isolated incident."

"I actually haven't heard of this actually happening ever in any of our properties," he said.

Pao said the suspects were in and out of the casino very quickly and noted the ATM was not bolted down at the time of the incident, as it was recently moved within the casino.

He said the casino is currently in the process of reviewing its security tapes and is co-operating with police.

Pao wouldn't speculate on whether a member of the casino's staff may have been involved in the heist, but conceded "there is that off-chance."

Police say in 13 recent incidents, including this one, offenders have stolen very little money, but note damage to the targeted buildings have ranged from $5,000 to $40,000, leaving business owners with considerable cleanup costs.

A release from the CPS explained suspects smashed the front window of the casino with a crowbar and then entered the premises, loading the ATM onto a dolly and into a nearby vehicle.

Police have laid charges against three men in connection to two of the 13 instances, and remind business owners to keep machines away from doors and windows, adding they should be chained or bolted to the floor.

No one was injured in Wednesday's incident, and officers believe suspects fled the scene in what's believed to be a silver coloured minivan.

Student bridges #CHHSLetsTalk divide, with help from Shatner

Mental health.
High schooler speaks at MRU in support of Bell Let's Talk

HELEN PIKE
helen.pike@metronews.ca

Brett Rothery woke up to a ping from Twitter Wednesday morning — it was William Shatner making sure he made the switch.

#CHHSLetsTalk may be over, but #BellLetsTalk is just beginning.

The Calgary high school student, whose own social-media campaign in support of mental health earlier this year exceeded even his wildest expectations, made a guest appearance at Mount Royal University Wednesday for a mental health event to kick off the much larger Bell Let's Talk campaign.

"We've sort of just passed the torch on to Bell," said Rothery. "We're going to continue the conversation that way."

After exhausting initial funding committed through his Crescent Heights High School, Rothery's efforts ended up raising more than $21,000 — a far cry from the school's $500 maximum for the initial project, which eventually garnered more supporters pledging to donate funds each time the hashtag #CHHSLetsTalk was mentioned online.

At one point during Rothery's campaign, someone on Twitter asked William Shatner to get involved, leading to a minor Twitter tiff in which the Star Trek star refused to support the hashtag, calling it a spinoff of Bell's much larger initiative, and questioning the local teens' abilities to raise funds. But all was later smoothed out and Shatner tweeted directly to the Calgary high-school student Wednesday.

Rothery spoke to MRU students Wednesday about his project and how it got started.

Students' Association of Mount Royal University vice-president of student life Zoe Sulsar said mental health is a major issue for students in both high school and university.

"We're in this age where we're trying to figure out what to do with our lives," Sulsar said. "I think that engaging in mental health awareness is really essential for young people of all ages."

The 2015 Bell Let's Talk campaign kicked off on Jan. 27, aimed at spurring a nationwide conversation. Bell will also donate five cents to mental health initiatives for every tweet using the #BellLetsTalk hashtag.

Brett Rothery talks to Mount Royal University students about his social media campaign Wednesday. HELEN PIKE/ METRO

ALS

U of C researcher first to get ice bucket cash

Late last summer, Dr. Lawrence Korngut's two daughters dumped a bucket of ice over his head to help raise money for ALS Canada, and now the same organization is funding his research for the disease.

Last year, the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge filled Twitter and Facebook feeds across the world, raising more than $16-million in Canada alone.

Korngut's research team is receiving the first grant issued from the funds raised by the ice bucket challenge. The $489,000 his team received will fund a Phase 2 study involving 100 patients to test a drug that may hold hope for Canadians with ALS.

In animal trials, the drug has been observed to strengthen the connection between motor neurons and muscles. Korngut will be testing it on 25 Calgarians over the next few weeks before heading into phase two.

JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Protesters to province: Build cancer centre now

Demonstrators in Calgary called on the province to begin construction of a new cancer centre. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Shannon Goddard was diagnosed with stage 2B Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2012. Since starting treatment the same year, she describes the Tom Baker Cancer Centre as filled to the brim with other patients.

Goddard said she had a bone-marrow biopsy in a room as big as a closet, stood in waiting rooms that were merely hallways, and received her chemo treatment in chairs due to a lack of beds.

"It doesn't take long, as a cancer patient, to see how limited the resources are," said Goddard. "The capacity of the facility is overloaded."

Hundreds of people gathered outside the McDougall Centre on Wednesday afternoon shouting the phrase "Build it now" in an attempt to revive plans for a new cancer centre in Calgary.

Last month, the provincial government delayed plans to revamp the Tom Baker Cancer Centre due to plummeting oil prices.

The cancer centre ran out of space a decade ago, demonstrators noted, as they called on Premier Jim Prentice to reverse the government's plan to delay construction of the $1.3-billion new facility.

Members of the Concerned Citizens for the Calgary Cancer Centre, the Canadian Cancer Society and the general public took part in the rally.

"We're here to say to the government to stop this nonsense. Three times in 10 years we've delayed this centre. Enough is enough — it's time to save lives," said Dan Holinda, executive director of the Canadian Cancer Society. "This is not about money, this is about fighting for life."

JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

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Dae-Kyun Ro's new lettuce prototype is the first model to produce rubber in more than 50 years. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Lettuce study helping rubber industry grow

Science. Continuing Thomas Edison's work, U of C professor hopes to help expand the production of naturally grown rubber

Typical rubber grows on trees, but if one University of Calgary researcher has any say, we might see it in Alberta's fertile fields one day.

Dae-Kyun Ro, associate professor at the University of Calgary, has spent the past seven years trying to make rubber out of lettuce. His current lettuce prototype is the first natural biosynthetic model to produce rubber in more than 50 years.

Natural rubber is only found in tropical Asian trees, called para rubber trees, Ro says, which means that 100 per cent of Canada's natural rubber is imported. Should the trees face a natural disaster, the world would be dependent on synthetic, petrochemical-based rubber, which Ro said is risky.

Quoted

"As a scientist, it's good to be innovative at the early stages and maintain chemical sustainability."

Dae-Kyun Ro, associate professor at U of C, who says the end of petroleum is a reality better faced in the present

"A time will come when petroleum will disappear," he said. "So as a scientist, it's good to be innovative at the early stages and maintain chemical sustainability."

Once he has completed his rubber-producing lettuce, he plans on applying it to a wild plant called goldenrod, which is native to Canada. It was first attempted by Thomas Edison in the 1930s, but his study was never completed.

Ro said that after Edison passed away, the idea was left behind, so he decided to pick the idea back up and create a natural rubber resource that can be grown and sustained in Canada.

"We can potentially diversify Alberta's industry so we're not dependent on petroleum," he said. "This is just one step of us moving forward for the evolution of Alberta."

JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Rubber production

The Government of Alberta provided the project $300,000 in funding.

- **Widely used.** Natural rubber represents almost 45 per cent of all global rubber consumption.
- **Billions of dollars.** According to Ro, natural rubber is a $40-billion global industry.

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Team leader Blake Thomas shakes hands with a homeless man outside the team's van in a Calgary alley. The outreach team connected the man with Alpha House's encampment workers for assistance. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO FILE

A 10-to-one 'social return on investment'

Harm reduction. City's outreach team patrols the streets, helping people before their problems get worse

ROBSON FLETCHER
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Every dollar invested in Calgary's Downtown Outreach Addiction Partnership (DOAP) Team — a mobile harm-reduction service that operates 24 hours a day on city streets — yields $9.43 in "social value," according to a new report.

That figure represents a "minimum" estimate of the value provided not just to DOAP Team clients but the savings their work creates for other social-service providers, according to Stephanie Robertson, president of Simpact Strategy Group, which prepared the report.

"They're working with clients that otherwise would have landed in emergency or in front of the police or being attended to by EMS," Robertson said.

Run by Alpha House Calgary, the DOAP Team sees pairs of workers travel around in a marked van, connecting directly with people on city streets and offering a wide variety of assistance.

The team transports clients to shelters and medical appointments, hands out safe-injection kits and condoms, connects "rough sleepers" with assistance and generally builds trusting relationships with Calgary's homeless and otherwise vulnerable people in order to help them in any way they can.

DOAP Team workers patrol city streets and also take service requests from clients via a published phone number — as well as from police and EMS workers via a private line known as the "Bat Phone."

"The work is so much around reducing use of services and saving dollars for the city," said Alpha House outreach coordinator Adam Melnyk.

Robertson said the analysis that went into the report spanned a period of six months and follows established practices for "social return on investment" calculations, a growing field of study that looks at broader impacts of social actions that are "typically not understood in a traditional cost-benefit analysis."

DOAP Team

The DOAP Team operates on a $1.1-million annual budget, said Alpha House outreach co-ordinator Adam Melnyk.

- Of that, about $120,000 comes from the city, about $150,000 from an anonymous benefactor and about $890,000 from the Calgary Homeless Foundation.
- In 2013, the team performed 16,853 transports of clients to and from shelters, hospitals or medical appointments and took 2,228 referrals from emergency services (police, EMS and bylaw).

Motorsports park faces uncertain future

Plans for a massive motorsports park just outside of Airdrie have come to a screeching halt after Rocky View councillors unanimously rejected the project.

The 9-0 vote against came late Tuesday after 50 members of the public addressed Rocky View County representatives in a marathon hearing that ran to midnight.

The crowd that turned out was divided equally between supporters and opponents, according to Deputy Reeve Lois Habberfield, but she suggested Wednesday that those in favour of the park came largely from Calgary-based automotive and driver-training clubs.

Habberfield said those behind the motorsports park, which has been in the works for more than two years, were told they could work with county officials to find a more appropriate spot for their venture. She said the park's planners gave no indication at the meeting as to whether they would take up the offer.

"There were several comments made that, while the project has a lot of merit, they picked the wrong location," Habberfield said. "It was intrusive; it doesn't fit in our new county plan."

The pitch was for a 260-hectare park at the northeast corner of Range Road 290 and Township Road 274, less than a mile from Airdrie's municipal boundary.

Phone and email inquiries to the Rockyview Motorsports Corp. were not immediately returned Wednesday, but the group posted a message on Facebook thanking supporters.

"At this point, we will be taking some time to consider alternative next steps," the post reads. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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The two dogs seen in these photos were among more than 200 rescued from a property near Milk River. Many of the animals were suffering from starvation and wounds. Some were even coping with broken bones.
COURTESY ALBERTA ANIMAL RESCUE CREW SOCIETY

SPCA seizes 200 dogs from rural property

Animal welfare. Dogs were malnourished, dehydrated, and lacking proper winter shelter, organization said

JEREMY NOLAIS
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A team of organizations has rescued more than 200 neglected pups from a property in the province's deep south, marking what the Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) says may be the largest seizure of dogs its history.

According to the Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), 60 dogs were first discovered on a rural site near Milk River on Dec. 23 by an investigator responding to a check on welfare call.

The SPCA then obtained a warrant to search the property Jan. 13 and found an additional 141 dogs hiding under various trailers and outbuildings on the property.

The dogs were malnourished, dehydrated, and lacking proper winter shelter, the SPCA said.

Among the groups now attempting to find homes for the animals is the Calgary-based Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society (AARCS).

Executive director Deanna Thompson said a number of the animals were suffering with wounds — one had a broken leg, another had a broken jaw.

"I would assume from likely trying to fight for what little food they had," Thompson speculated in an interview Wednesday.

So far, AARCS has taken in 60 of the neglected dogs, which are a mixture of huskies, Irish wolfhounds, malamutes and komondors.

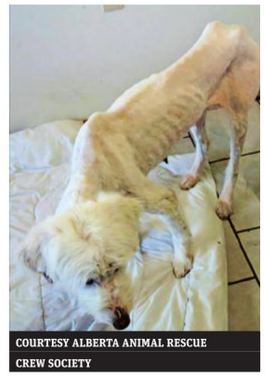
The animals' hair is "extremely matted" to the point that they've had to be shaved nearly bald, Thompson said.

The SPCA has confirmed this is the largest seizure of dogs in its history. The organization is continuing to investigate, but it wasn't immediately clear if charges would be laid.

"At a minimum, the owner would be required to pay for the costs associated with removing and boarding the dogs and providing veterinary treatments," spokesman Roland Lines said in a release.

Bighearted help

Those wishing to offer assistance in caring for the dogs are urged to visit aarcs.ca.



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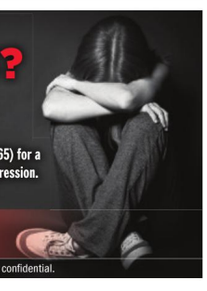

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This study has been approved by the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board at the University of Calgary. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

Out-of-this-world auction to support Calgary family

Expo. Egg replica signed by cast members of Aliens has already garnered nearly $900 in bids to help toddler with chronic health issues

A piece of sci-fi history is being auctioned off to support an important cause here on Earth.

Known as an Ovomorph, the item up for bid is a replica alien egg based on James Cameron's blockbuster Aliens, signed by several original cast members, including Sigourney Weaver.

The Calgary Comic & Entertainment Expo is auctioning off the treasure, signed at last year's event, in support of a Calgary family raising funds to care for their son, Sawyer.

"To be able to have an organization like the Calgary Expo rally behind a cause like this is quite fantastic," said Sawyer's father, Heath Kai, a volunteer for and fan of the event.

Born 10 weeks premature with dislocated hips and hypotonia, a condition affecting the body's muscles, Sawyer now needs to be fed and hydrated through a tube and required a tracheotomy to breathe.

As a result, parents Heath and Pam have held several fundraising events to ensure their son has the proper care he needs now and into the future.

Heath said the Expo took the lead on the recent auction. Posted to eBay, the replica has already garnered almost $900 in bids.

Lindsay Thomas, a spokeswoman with the Calgary Expo, said Heath is an important member of the Expo family, adding that when organizers heard his story and saw a chance to help, they jumped at it.

"It was just one of those things that was like, 'We've got these things; they're just sitting here. Let's use it for something really good to help somebody,'" she said, adding the response so far has been "amazing."

"The more I saw the numbers going up, the more touched I became and the more excited I became on behalf of this family," she added.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Members of the Kai family: Heath and Pam with their children Sawyer and Amaya. CONTRIBUTED

One developer backed out, but another has stepped forward to save the new headquarters for the Kensington Legion. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Kensington Legion. New developer keeps HQ alive

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Members of the Kensington Legion have been given renewed hope as a new developer has stepped forward to salvage plans for a new headquarters.

Metro was first to report earlier this month that the original developer of the new site, which has been in the works for two years, had backed away after being told by the city it would need to fork over $1.5 million to purchase a "remnant parcel" of land to erect the replacement facility.

The current legion has been deemed unsustainable. The new headquarters would be multi-floor, allowing for the rental of residential and professional space over top of the actual veterans' hot spot.

Now, treasurer Mark Barham said Truman Development Corp. has stepped up to save the headquarters and has a goal of throwing the doors open before Christmas 2016.

"The community needs us to stay," he said Wednesday. "We've been an integral part of that community. We've got members that live in that community.

"We've got ties to the community, and they need us to stay — this has cemented that."

Northeast Calgary

Boy hit by car, left in critical condition

The Calgary Police Service says a 13-year-old boy was sent to hospital in critical condition after he was struck by a vehicle at the intersection of 4th Street N.E. and Huntstrom Drive N.E. on Wednesday morning.

Police say the youth was not at the crosswalk when he was hit and that the driver stayed on scene and is co-operating with police. METRO

China

New 'dragon dinosaur' found

A new species of dinosaur with a neck half the length of its body has been discovered by University of Alberta paleontologists in China.

The researchers wonder if the ancient Chinese may have seen a similar skeleton, leading to the enduring myths of dragons. The fossil, which included a large neck vertebra with the head attached, was named Qijianglong.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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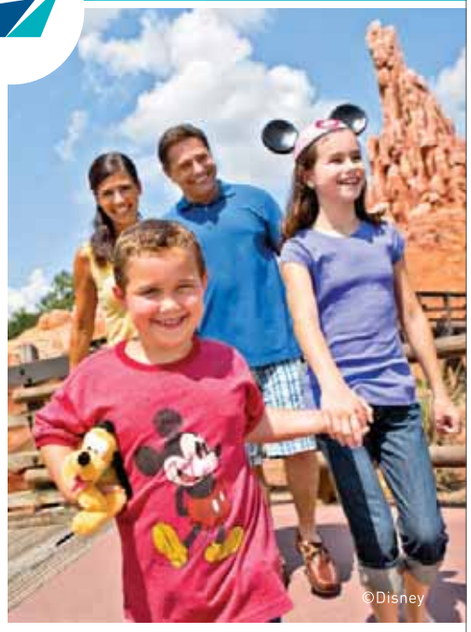

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WEEKEND EVENTS

FRIDAY
YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER THING COMIN': THE NEW EDWARD GALLERY

Calgary's coolest little alternative art gallery is presenting its latest group exhibition until Saturday at 352 – 8th Ave. N.E. And yes, the title is inspired by the Judas Priest song.

SATURDAY
THE PHILADELPHIA STORY: THE MAX BELL THEATRE

Theatre Calgary's latest production is a smart romantic comedy that originally premiered on Broadway before becoming an Oscar-nominated movie in 1940.

SATURDAY
KENSINGTON WINTER WARM-UP AND PUB CRAWL

The event kicks off at Molly Malone's at 2 p.m. Participants then take a self-guided tour of the area, which includes such spots as The Kensington Pub, The Oak Tree Tavern and The Brasserie.

SUNDAY
SYMONS VALLEY RANCH ICE FESTIVAL

Ice art takes centre stage at this family friendly festival in N.W. Calgary, which features stunning ice sculptures, winter activities and the Symons Valley Ranch farmers' market.

Figaro makes a return

Opera. One of Mozart's most beloved works comes back to Calgary after 14 years

Tickets

The Marriage of Figaro runs Jan. 31, Feb. 4 and Feb. 6 at the Jubilee Auditorium. Tickets are available online at CalgaryOpera.com or by calling 403-262-7286.

BACKSTAGE PASS
Lisa Wilton
calgary@metronews.ca

When Bob McPhee puts together a Calgary Opera season, he has a few boxes to check before he's happy.

"It's all about trying to get a balance within your season," says the company's longtime general director and CEO.

"You certainly want something that is accessible and well known by the general public, but for your real opera lovers, you want to find something that they might not hear as often."

Calgary Opera is two for two this season, according to those specifications.

The company kicked off the season with the critically-acclaimed contemporary work, Silent Night, in November and is currently putting the finishing touches on its next production, The Marriage of Figaro.

Not only is it one of Mozart's most beloved works, it's also one of the 10 most performed operas in the world.

"Within this opera there are many solo works, duets and trios," McPhee says.

"Even for the patron who is not opera knowledgeable, there are going to be tunes they've heard. Whether they've heard it in movies or in commercials or in multiple different ways."

McPhee also credits the farcical libretto — based on the 18th century play, La folle journee, ou le Mariage de Figaro by Pierre Beaumarchais — for The Marriage of Figaro's enduring popularity.

Set in Spain, the story revolves around a servant named Figaro and the difficulties he encounters on the day of his wedding to the beautiful Susanna.

"If it was being written today, it would be called a bedroom farce," McPhee says.

"It's the mistaken identities and one lover flirting with another lover. 'Who's wearing what mask?' and all those other antics of a bedroom farce. And you've got all those great characters and great music."

Calgary Opera last presented The Marriage of Figaro almost 14 years ago and McPhee says he felt it was time to introduce the operatic masterpiece to a younger audience.

"I thought, 'You know, there is a whole generation that has never experienced it."

Mozart's operatic masterpiece, The Marriage of Figaro, gets the Calgary Opera treatment starting Saturday at the Jubilee Auditorium.
COURTESY CALGARY OPERA/BRIGITTA DIEHL

On laughter and BBQ sauce

It hasn't been the easiest year of Jebb Fink's life.

The Calgary comedian has been dealing with a few health issues, but he's looking on the bright side.

"Every time something horrible happens in my life, it becomes a bit in my stand-up routine," Fink says with a grin.

He explains that last year doctors told him he had too much iron in his blood and a lack of hemoglobin.

"Which is apparently the blood part of your blood," he quips.

Still, Fink, who once graced Calgary airwaves as a cog in the A-Channel morning show, has been keeping himself busy with corporate gigs, which sees him perform at events across the country.

His public headlining shows are becoming increasingly rare, although he can be seen onstage this weekend at The Laugh Shop in Hotel Blackfoot.

In addition to comedy, Fink has been focusing some time on another passion — barbecue sauce.

Jebb Fink CONTRIBUTED

"I've been making barbecue sauce for more than 20 years," he says.

"I sort of semi-retired and I thought I'd try making it to sell. I thought, 'This'll be easy.' And it's not. It's really hard work."

Fink usually sells his homemade sauces at the Uptown Gelato booth in The Market on Macleod, although he hasn't made a batch for few months due to his busy schedule.

"It depends on what mood I'm in," says Fink.

"I have to make at least four cases to make it worth it." LISA WILTON/METRO

Calgary father Shane Byciuk fears his son Kyron will have to take a bus to school instead of simply crossing the street. CONTRIBUTED

Lotteries affect kids, families, say city parents

Education. Dozens of Calgary schools could use draws to set enrolment this fall

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

If Shane Byciuk's son Kyron was to toss a rock from the front stoop of his home it would likely smash a window at Cranston School.

"We literally live right across the street from the school," he said. "I look out my window and there's the school."

Yet Kyron, in all likelihood, will be entered in an enrolment lottery for school this fall.

If his name's not drawn, he'll likely be forced to hop on the bus to McKenzie Lake School, because it's a 40-minute walk away.

"We never imagined that it would be up in the air, that we might not get in," Byciuk said. "We've been talking about how we might move to a neighbourhood that has lots of schools, like Sundance or Midnapore … It's a lifestyle thing and it's important for him to be able to go to the same school as the kids he grew up with."

Last year, Jocelyn Lalonde and her husband actually considered entering their four-year-old daughter into the lottery at West Springs School.

Their fear was that spacing issues in the community school would only ramp up, making their odds of being accepted even more difficult for 2014-15.

"It was horrible," she said.

The Lalondes eventually decided to keep their youngster home for another year and, luckily, she managed to squeeze into West Springs this past fall.

It seems even more families such as the Byciuks and the Lalondes will be forced into such lotteries.

The Calgary Board of Education says as many as 42 schools will go through it, up from 29 last year.

Darlene Unruh, the CBE's director of planning and transportation, said some parents will actually enrol their kids for kindergarten early, pull them out if their names aren't called, then re-enter the following year.

Opposition critics scolded the province for the surging number of lotteries in Calgary Wednesday, but Premier Jim Prentice told reporters construction of new facilities "has been carrying on."

Speeding

Teen caught driving 182km/h going to court; Mounties call his mother

Members of the Airdrie RCMP say a 17-year-old speedster is facing a mandatory court appearance in traffic court.

RCMP contend he was driving 182 kilometres per hour in an 80-km/h stretch of road.

A news release from the RCMP explained the young speeder was pulled over on Wednesday morning by an officer conducting speed enforcement on Range Road 11, near Highway 566.

RCMP say the officer observed the vehicle — a newer model Hyundai Genesis — approaching his position at "an extremely high rate of speed."

The 17-year-old boy was traveling with his girlfriend at the time of the incident.

Officers also called the youth's mother about the speeding infraction.

"Speeding is one of the top priorities of the Integrated Traffic Units in Alberta," said Cpl. Darrin Turnbull of the Airdrie Integrated Traffic Unit.

"(It's) a common factor involved in serious injury and fatal collisions."

"This young man is lucky the officer was there.

"Crashing at that speed could have been catastrophic."

According to statistics released by the RCMP, speeding is considered to be an influencing factor in 26 per cent of all serious injury and fatal collisions involving motor vehicles in the province of Alberta.

METRO

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CSE stands by its role in Internet hunt for terrorists

Spy agency. Document says CSE analysts can access information on 10 to 15 million downloads from free sites each day

Canada's electronic spy agency is defending its role in the search for extremists following a report that says it sifts through millions of videos and documents downloaded globally every day through file-sharing services.

Details of the Communications Security Establishment project, called Levitation, are revealed in a 2012 PowerPoint presentation obtained by former U.S. intelligence contractor Edward Snowden, CBC News says.

CBC analyzed the document with U.S. news website The Intercept, which obtained it from Snowden. It also posted the presentation online, with some of the information blacked out. The Ottawa-based CSE employs mathematicians, codebreakers, linguists and software experts, with the aim of both collecting foreign secrets and shielding Canada's confidences from prying eyes.

The document says that under Levitation, CSE analysts can access information on about 10 to 15 million uploads and downloads of files from free websites each day.

Extremists generally use free file-uploading sites to distribute training materials, while al-Qaida uses them to spread jihadist propaganda, the document says. It notes CSE finds about 350 "interesting download events" per month, citing one on how to make a gas bomb.

One privacy advocate expressed alarm at the CBC report.

"CSE is clearly spying on the private online activities of millions of innocent people, including Canadians, despite repeated government assurances to the contrary," said OpenMedia.ca spokesman David Christopher.

"Law-abiding Internet users who use popular file-hosting services are now finding themselves under the government's microscope."

CSE stood by its methods, saying they have helped counter terrorism.

"CSE's foreign signals intelligence has played a vital role in uncovering foreign-based extremists' efforts to attract, radicalize, and train individuals to carry out attacks in Canada and abroad," agency spokesman Ryan Foreman said in an emailed statement Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Metadata

CSE said that the agency is authorized to collect and analyze metadata — data trails about messages and calls, not the actual content.

- Privacy advocates have stressed that metadata is not innocuous, as it can reveal much about a person's online behaviour.
- CSE said it takes strict measures to protect the privacy of Canadians when it comes across their information.

Positive E. coli test prompts boil-water advisory for Winnipeg

Winnipeg shoppers were greeted with empty shelves Tuesday, when Winnipeg authorities issued a boil-water advisory after an E.coli-positive test. The latest tests on the city's water supply have come back clean, but it could be another day before the city's 700,000 residents can safely drink their water without boiling it. Mayor Brian Bowman says a second round of testing won't be completed until Thursday afternoon. Bowman says it's up to the province to lift the boil-water advisory. The medical officer of health for the Winnipeg region says guidelines require two rounds of clean tests before that can happen. The city says it believes the original samples were false positives.

PHOTO: JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

TEXT: THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bullying. Accused denies tormenting Amanda Todd

Amanda Todd THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Dutch man accused of cyberbullying a British Columbia teen who died by suicide has penned an open letter from jail in the Netherlands, proclaiming his innocence and denying he was "the so-called tormentor" of Amanda Todd.

Aydin Coban released the four-page, handwritten composition through his lawyer to mark one year of his imprisonment and to address the "many blatant lies" he says have swirled about his case worldwide.

"I'm not the so-called tormentor of Miss. Amanda Todd or of anyone else for that matter. I've been in jail exactly a year now for things I haven't done," he writes in the letter dated Jan. 13.

Todd was a 15-year-old from Port Coquitlam, B.C., whose image went viral after she died by suicide in October 2012. Not long before her death, she silently used flashcards to recount her disturbing encounters with an online harasser in a YouTube video.

Her story of sexual exploitation spurred a national conversation about online bullying and prompted the Canadian government to introduce legislation that would criminalize the distribution of intimate images without the person's consent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Politics. New terror laws concern privacy watchdog

Canada's privacy watchdog is expressing early concerns about information-sharing provisions expected in the Conservatives' new anti-terror laws, as Prime Minister Stephen Harper meets with Toronto police chiefs to win support for the new measures.

Daniel Therrien said he's been briefed on the government's new anti-terror bill, to be tabled in Parliament on Friday, and will be watching the wording of provisions designed to increase information-sharing among government agencies.

"Information-sharing regarding whom? Regarding people who are suspected of terrorist activities, or the sharing of information about other Canadians who are not suspected of anything in order to identify a national security threat," Therrien said.

"Travellers crossing the border, ordinary Canadians crossing the border. Will there be greater information sharing about them from the border agency to the secret service?"

Meetings

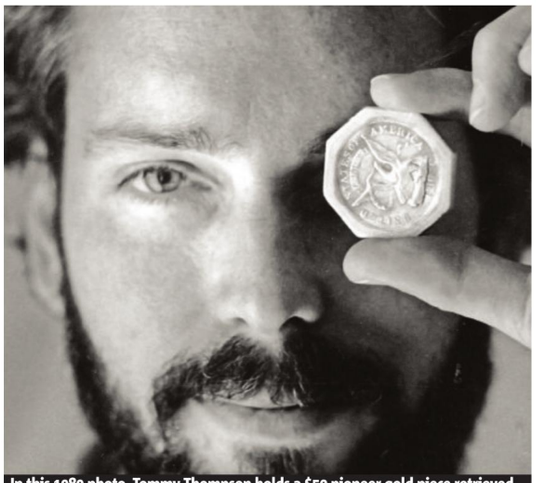
Prime Minister Stephen Harper is scheduled to meet with police leaders from across the Greater Toronto Area on Thursday to brief them on the new anti-terror laws and to seek their support.

The measures are expected to improve security agencies' ability to share information and allow security officials to take "proactive measures" earlier in a terror investigation if they perceive a threat.

As well, amendments are coming to the Criminal Code to deter the promotion of terrorism and make it easier for law-enforcement officials to obtain peace bonds. It is expected there will also be changes to "enhance" no-fly rules.

The government has expressed concern about Canadians travelling abroad to fight alongside extremists.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



In this 1989 photo, Tommy Thompson holds a $50 pioneer gold piece retrieved from the wreck of the gold ship Central America. According to the U.S. Marshals Service, Thompson, a fugitive treasure hunter wanted for more than two years, has been arrested in Florida. LON HORWEDEL/THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elusive gold hunter found and arrested

Shipwreck. Man went into hiding after investors sought their share of $50M haul

A treasure hunter locked in a legal battle over one of the greatest undersea hauls in American history has been arrested in Florida after more than two years on the lam, authorities said Wednesday.

The U.S. Marshals Service tracked Tommy Thompson to a hotel in Palm Beach County and arrested him Tuesday, said Brian Babtist, a senior inspector in the agency's office in Columbus, Ohio.

Thompson made history in 1988 when he found the sunken S.S. Central America. Thompson and his crew brought up thousands of gold bars and coins from the shipwreck. Much of that was later sold to a gold marketing group in 2000 for about $50 million.

The 161 investors who paid Thompson $12.7 million to find the ship never saw returns from the sale.

Gil Kirk, a former director of one of Thompson's companies, said last year that Thompson never cheated anyone. Kirk said proceeds from the 2000 sale of the gold all went to legal fees and bank loans.

"He was a genius, and they've stolen his life," Kirk said of those who sued.

Thompson went into seclusion in 2006, moving into a mansion in Vero Beach, Fla. Six years later, after the arrest warrant was issued, Thompson vanished.

When the property's caretakers searched it, they found prepaid disposable phones and bank wraps for $10,000 scattered about, along with a bank statement in the name of Harvey Thompson showing a $1 million balance, court records say. Also found was a book called How to Live Your Life Invisible. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida. Cat digs himself out of shallow grave

Bart the cat was hit by a car, buried and crawled back from the dead.

A car hit the 1-1/2-year-old cat in Tampa, Fla. Five days later, on Jan. 21, a ragged Bart emerged from his shallow grave. Bart was dehydrated and hungry, had a broken jaw, a ruptured eye and a torn-up face — but it was alive.

The cat underwent surgery on Tuesday and is expected to recover in about six weeks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not Australia

Kangaroo on the lam in Austria

A kangaroo is on the loose in frigid and snowy Austria, hopping his way toward dispelling a famous slogan.

"No kangaroos in Austria" T-shirts and souvenirs have been big sellers for years in the alpine nation, since some people confuse Austria with Australia.

Anton the kangaroo bounded away from his owner several weeks ago and has been living rough ever since, disappearing into forested land every time someone tries to capture him.

State-run broadcaster ORF posted a photo of the Australian marsupial on Wednesday sitting in a snowy backyard near the town of Braunau.

Anton looks fit and is expected to survive the winter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boston

Creature stalks the frozen wastes during blizzard

The monster storm in Boston has brought with it another monster: A yeti. The furry phantom, whose true identity is not yet known, has been getting laughs by walking through the blizzard in a sasquatch suit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sweden

Pool opens neutral-gender change room

A public swimming pool in the city of Sundbyberg is reopening this weekend after building a third change room for people with a "neutral gender identity." The city says it's the first LGBT-certified pool in Sweden. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Missiles. Hezbollah hits Israeli convoy, killing 2

Missiles fired by the Lebanese Hezbollah group struck an Israeli military convoy on Wednesday, killing two soldiers in an apparent retaliation for a deadly airstrike attributed to Israel that killed six Hezbollah fighters in Syria earlier this month.

It was the deadliest Hezbollah attack against Israeli forces since a 2006 war between the two sides.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would respond "forcefully" to the attack. The military launched aerial and ground assaults on Hezbollah positions, including at least 50 artillery shells, according to Lebanese officials.

A Spanish peacekeeper was killed in the border flare-up in southern Lebanon.

In a statement, Hezbollah said its fighters destroyed a number of Israeli vehicles that were carrying Israeli officers and soldiers and caused casualties among "enemy ranks." The soldiers' ranks were not immediately known.

Hezbollah said the attack was carried out by a group calling itself the "righteous martyrs of Quneitra," suggesting it was in retaliation for an Israeli airstrike on the Golan Heights on Jan. 18 that killed six Hezbollah fighters and an Iranian general.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli soldiers treat a wounded soldier near the Israel-Lebanon border Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jordan offers prisoner swap to ISIL for pilot

ISIL hostages. Lives of Jordanian pilot and Japanese journalist threatened if would-be bomber not freed

Jordan offered a precedent-setting prisoner swap to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) on Wednesday in a desperate attempt to save a Jordanian air-force pilot the militants purportedly threatened to kill along with a Japanese hostage.

Meeting ISIL's demand for the release of a would-be hotel bomber linked to al-Qaida would run counter to the kingdom's hard-line approach to the extremists, but the government faces growing domestic pressure to bring the pilot home.

Efforts to release the pilot, Lt. Muath al-Kaseasbeh, and Japanese journalist Kenji Goto gained urgency with the release late Tuesday of a purported online ultimatum claiming ISIL would kill both hostages within 24 hours if the al-Qaida-linked prisoner was not freed.

By Wednesday evening, there was no word on the fate of the hostages and no sign that a swap was underway. In a possible indication of a holdup, Jordan's foreign minister wrote on his Twitter account that Jordan had not received evidence the pilot was alive and healthy.

The scope of a possible swap and of ISIL's demands also remained unclear. Jordanian government spokesman Mohammed al-Momani said Jordan is ready to trade the prisoner, an Iraqi woman convicted of involvement in deadly Amman hotel bombings in 2005, for the pilot. Al-Momani made no mention of Goto, and it was not clear if the swap proposed by Jordan would satisfy the hostage-takers.

Any exchange would set a precedent for negotiating with ISIL, who in the past have not publicly demanded prisoner releases. Jordan's main ally, the United States, opposes negotiations with extremists.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman watches a TV news program Wednesday in Tokyo reporting on a video posted on YouTube by jihadists on Tuesday that purports to show a still photo of Japanese hostage Kenji Goto holding what appears to be a photo of Jordanian pilot 1st Lt. Mu'ath al-Kaseasbeh. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Extremists rampage through villages in Nigeria

Islamic extremists are attacking villages in northeastern Nigeria, killing, burning and looting with no troops to protect civilians, fleeing villagers said Wednesday.

More than 40 people have been killed in seven villages in Adamawa state this week, according to resident Emmanuel Kwache.

"They slaughtered people like rams and they burned down our houses after looting food," Kwache said. "There's no presence of troops, some residents are hiding on top of hills, while those that could not run were abducted, particularly youths and women."

State legislator Adamu Kamale said he has appealed in vain for troops since the attacks began on Friday. On Monday the militants moved into Michika town, he said.

In Maiduguri, capital of Borno state and some 200 kilometres north of Michika, people fleeing other Boko Haram attacks say the militants warned they are preparing to massacre them in Maiduguri and that "there will be no mercy."

Maiduguri is the biggest city in the northeast where troops repelled a daring offensive by hundreds of militants Sunday. Boko Haram attacked Maiduguri at three entry points and at least 200 combatants were killed in prolonged gun battles, according to residents and security forces.

"They kept saying ... we can all run into the big grave they are preparing for us in Maiduguri," said Aishatu Ba'malum, who fled from Monguno, a northeast town taken Sunday by militants.

Maiduguri's population of two million has been swollen by about 200,000 refugees who have fled Boko Haram in the surrounding countryside. Four roads lead to Maiduguri and Boko Haram already controls access to three. The militants are believed to be attacking the fourth road leading to the northern city of Kano, according to residents too scared to leave though they fear an imminent attack.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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1961 case. Judge tosses the convictions of nine civil-rights activists

The convictions of nine South Carolina black men who integrated a whites-only lunch counter during the height of the American civil rights movement were tossed out Wednesday during an emotional hearing before a packed courtroom.

"We cannot rewrite history, but we can right history," Judge Mark Hayes said as he made the ruling for the men known as the Friendship 9, and those in court clapped and cheered.

Prosecutor Kevin Brackett apologized to the men — eight of whom were in court. The ninth has died.

"Sometimes you just have to say you're sorry," Brackett said. "My heartfelt apologies for what happened in 1961."

Fifty-four years ago, the eight college students and one civil rights organizer were convicted of trespassing and protesting at McCrory variety store in Rock Hill.

The men's refusal to pay bail money into the segregationist town's city coffers served as a catalyst for other civil disobedience. Inspired by their courage, demonstrators across the South adopted their "jail not bail" tactic and filled jail cells. The media attention helped turn scattered protests into a nationwide movement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Denver

Friend disputes police account of shooting death

A teenage passenger who was in a car when a 17-year-old girl was shot and killed by Denver police has disputed authorities' account of her death, saying officers opened fire before one of them was struck by the vehicle. The shooting occurred amid a national debate about police use of force fuelled by racially charged episodes in Ferguson, Mo., and New York City. The passenger, speaking to The Associated Press, said her friend, Jessica Hernandez, lost control of the vehicle because she was unconscious after being shot. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Employment. Sidewalk job hunter snags career

Innovative thinking — and stamina to brave the frigid weather — has finally paid off for Xingyi Yan.

The University of Toronto grad took to Toronto's streets a few months ago with a sandwich-board sign advertising that she was available for hire. Now, she's a search analyst at advertising company Reprise Media.

The unconventional job-hunting strategy drew plenty of criticism. One person, Yan said, told her she was "humiliating" herself by begging for a job. Regardless, she has no regrets. "It got me a job in my dream career," Yan said.

Her new job ties in with her effort. Someone who passed Yan on the street took her resumé, referred her to a network for marketing professionals and she spotted the opening at Reprise Media.

Xingyi Yan at her desk at Reprise Media where she landed a job after taking to the streets for weeks with a placard, handing out resumes.
CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A week later, she had a job interview. Overall, Yan said, she landed more than a dozen job interview opportunities out of the campaign.

GILBERT NGABO/METRO IN TORONTO

Privacy. Made-in-Canada app makes browsing safer

A Toronto developer has released a new app that keeps your online browsing safe from Big Brother.

Andrew Hilts is the man behind TrackerSSL, a plugin for the Chrome web browser that lets users know if websites are transmitting their personal information without encrypting it first.

The app was launched Wednesday, which was both international Data Privacy Day and the day news broke that Canada's national spy agency (CSEC) was monitoring the downloading habits of millions of Internet users.

TrackerSSL works by targetting data shared by online advertising services such as Google and Facebook. "By compiling a list of what you're browsing online, ad companies can infer what your interests are, or what political views you have," Hilts said.

The problem is that many websites send information to advertising sites in a way that's easy for spy agencies to access.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO IN TORONTO

Tim Hortons bound by layoff restrictions

Takeover. Industry Canada says Burger King has agreed to keep 80 per cent of corporate jobs

Tim Hortons franchises employ 96,000 restaurant workers and are barred from reducing staffing levels under an agreement reached with Burger King, according to Industry Minister James Moore's press secretary Jake Enwright.
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Ottawa has restricted Burger King from eliminating more than 20 per cent of corporate staff at Tim Hortons' long-time headquarters or regional offices, an Industry Canada spokesman confirms.

The newly-merged company Restaurant Brands International is required to "maintain significant employment levels" of non-restaurant employees, as part of the list of commitments the fast food behemoth made to get final approval in December from the federal government to seal the $12.5 billion deal.

Although it wasn't announced at the time, Industry Minister James Moore actually secured a more definitive commitment that Burger King maintain 80 per cent of Tim Hortons' "entire corporate footprint" at both the Oakville head office and regional offices across Canada, said his press secretary, Jake Enwright.

Tim Hortons still refused Wednesday to publicly divulge the exact number of people who were laid off this week, although media speculation has run rampant that up to 40 per cent of middle managers were swept up in the round of layoffs that began Tuesday morning, just six weeks after the controversial takeover was completed.

Layoffs

40%

Media speculation has run rampant that up to 40 per cent of middle managers were swept up in the round of layoffs that began Tuesday morning.

With an estimated 2,000 employees at both head office and seven regional offices from British Columbia to Nova Scotia and one in the U.S., the restrictions would translate into a maximum of 200 workers impacted.

Enwright pointed out that Tim Hortons franchises, which employ 96,000 restaurant workers, cannot reduce staffing levels under the agreement with Burger King.

The merger created the world's third-largest restaurant company, with 18,000 stores and $23 billion in sales. It was originally pitched by executives as the best way to expand Tim Hortons internationally and make the Canadian brand truly global.

When the blockbuster deal was announced last August, critics warned that Burger King's owner 3G Capital, a Brazil-based investment firm, has a track record of paring staff and slashing costs, and would do the same in a Tim's takeover. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Internet

Yahoo spins off valuable stake in China's Alibaba

Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer is losing a precious security blanket now that she is spinning off the Internet company's prized stake in China's Alibaba Group into a new entity called SpinCo.

Ownership of 384 million shares of Alibaba stock, currently worth $39 billion US, represent the main reason that Yahoo's stock has more than tripled since Mayer became CEO. Investors viewed Yahoo as another way to own a piece of Alibaba. As long as there was a link to the e-commerce company, it almost didn't matter that Yahoo's own digital services have been struggling to generate more revenue.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 79.87¢ (-0.75¢)

TSX 14,602.88 (-231)

OIL $44.45 US (-$1.78)

GOLD $1,285.90 US (-$5.80)

Natural gas: $2.866 (-11.5¢)
Dow Jones: 17,191.37 (-195.84)

Facebook launching Super Bowl hub for the big game

As Facebook's latest step into sports, the social media giant is launching Trending Super Bowl — a real-time hub for content from Sunday's game between the Patriots and Seahawks.

The hub will allow followers to see how the game is going on a scoreboard module, while also viewing Super Bowl-related posts, photos and video posted by professional media, celebrities and friends. The module will also include a running play-by-play from the game, and videos of some of the commercials from the broadcast.

Online conversation

350M

Facebook isn't new to big sports happenings. Last year, it saw 350 million people worldwide engaged in conversation around the World Cup.

Facebook is trying to improve the experience around big sporting events for users. During last year's Super Bowl, more than 50 million Facebook users had more than 185 million interactions (posts, comments and likes) about the big game.

"We have been the second-screen, real-time audience," says Dan Reed, head of global sports partnerships at Facebook. "This Trending Super Bowl is part of a broader effort to better surface the great conversations happening in real time around live sporting events."

And not only during the game — Trending Super Bowl will be live beginning Saturday morning.

"We know the Super Bowl is an all-day extravaganza and this will certainly be available pregame and during the game and postgame and halftime, of course," Reed adds. "We also recognize it is about the pageantry around the game and the halftime show and the TV commercials."

Facebook wants the hub to be one-stop shopping for all sorts of content for the game.

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VOICES

CRIMINALIZING DISSENT

Terrorism "endorsement" law a half-baked idea that would make free thought illegal

OMAR MOUALLEM
readers@metronews.ca

Last Sunday, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, standing before a humongous Canadian flag, promised a new anti-terror bill that would "help authorities stop planned attacks, get threats off our streets and" — insert record scratch — "criminalize the promotion of terrorism."

Such a law is intended to prevent another Parliament shooting, but without a Criminal Code definition of "terrorism" (just a robust definition of "terrorist activity"), does it also leave us vulnerable to an attack on free expression?

We can assume Harper was referring to jihadi terrorism — not environmental terrorism or white supremacist terrorism — since that was the crux of his campaign-tinged speech at an Ottawa secondary school. But we'll see tomorrow, as he is poised to unveil the proposed legislation Friday. The Liberals are backing it.

"Glorification of terrorism" laws have been on Harper's radar for a while and they've intensified after incidents in October that claimed the lives of two Canadian soldiers — one in Quebec and another in Ottawa on Parliament Hill. French authorities recently used a glorification law to arrest comedian Dieudonné M'bala M'bala, who posted "I feel like Charlie Coulibaly" (Coulibaly being the last name of one of the Paris gunmen) on Facebook.

Two researchers, from the universities of British Columbia and Waterloo, recently assessed a prospective glorification law for Canada and concluded: "The chill effect on speech would be potentially enormous.... The measures may also be counterproductive, diminishing the very speech that may contain strategic and tactical intelligence for counter-terrorism investigators."

To be clear, our Charter of Rights and Freedoms already prohibits expressions of violence, threats of violence and general hate propaganda. With sweeping powers such as preventative detention already in its possession, it's difficult to understand why law enforcement needs anything more.

Criminalizing "endorsements of terror" could target speech with only vague intent.

And the law doesn't like vagueness. It recoils at vagueness. It shrivels and breaks apart.

An endorsement, we can assume, is a public or private approval of terrorism — systematic violence to coerce a government or community (I'm just deferring to the Oxford dictionary now, since I can't rely on the Criminal Code for a definition yet). A Canadian might endorse or glorify terrorism because he or she is trying to test the waters with their audience and organize an attack, sure, but a Canadian might also do so for more complex reasons that we won't begin to understand if we preemptively shush them.

Some Canadians' families are from countries where their elected governments are also threats to national security or belong to a marginalized ethnic group that, overseas, is protected by a certified terrorist organization.

Prepare to read many "endorsements" of terrorism as Israel prepares to retaliate against Lebanon for the killing of two IDF soldiers by Hezbollah missiles.

Are they, and anyone who retweets an ISIL beheading video or likes M'bala's comments, guilty by association?

And what else are we willing to criminalize in the name of small security?

Regardless of how shocking and, yes, potentially dangerous these "endorsements" may be, they have the right to be expressed — then criticized, debated or mocked.

Apparently, though, this isn't enough for the Harper government.

Is it enough for you?

Omar Moullem is an Edmonton-based writer and editor of The Yards.

No good deed goes unpunished by law enforcement

KRISTEN THOMPSON
readers@metronews.ca

I'm your average Canadian: polite, apologetic and law-abiding. I like that rules are in place to maintain order and fairness.

But there's something wrong with a legal system that punishes Good Samaritans — and by extension the people they are trying to help.

Take the recent story of a Calgary woman who was fined $250 for giving her transit pass to a man who was down on his luck. The woman, who had two passes, says she was trying to be generous by gifting her pass to someone in need. A transit officer fined them both.

"It's not about the money or the fine but about the way David was treated," the woman told Metro in a recent interview. "Calgary is supposed to be a place where we look out for each other."

She's right. Rules, 99 per cent of the time, should be enforced. But if we can't make exceptions for those cases when mistakes are made or when a broken rule helps give someone a boost, then we've become automatons with no capacity for discretion and compassion.

The enforcement of draconian rules — simply because they are rules — happens a lot.

Sgt. Al Lerner speaks with Arnold Abbott, a 90-year-old chef, as he warns him that he will be cited for feeding the homeless in violation of a city law in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. in November. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES FILE

A Toronto restaurant that caters to disabled diners is facing tens of thousands of dollars in fines from the city because a newly built ramp violates a bylaw by several centimetres. Rules are rules, says the city, and the expensive ramp must be dismantled.

Then there are the municipalities, at least 30 in the U.S., that are cracking down on food-distribution programs for the homeless. In a shocking example of NIMBYism, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., "feeding sites" must now be more than 500 feet away from residential properties and must not operate outdoors. In that city, a 90-year-old man — who along with two ministers has been feeding the homeless in public for 23 years now — faces jail time and a fine for the crime of handing out food to the hungry.

I've run into similar situations on a much smaller scale. On a recent flight, a fellow passenger with splints on her arms asked me to lift her carry-on into the overhead storage. A flight attendant put a quick stop to this, informing us that no one except the passenger was permitted to lift luggage on the plane. Neither of us was fined, obviously, but it was another case of hard-and-fast rule-following that seemed ridiculous given the situation.

We, the rule followers and rule enforcers, need to ask ourselves two questions: first, who are these laws protecting? Anyone? No one? And who are these laws hurting? The needy? The giving?

Rules are there to protect us, to make the world better and safer. But zero-tolerance policies are missing the point, and when our laws hurt rather then help, they are not really doing their job.

Follow Kristen Thompson on Twitter @KristenThom

Correction

In a column published on the Voices page on Jan. 28, Metro incorrectly identified a woman killed in Winnipeg. Her name is Tina Fontaine. Metro regrets the error.

metro
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Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Gabrielle Union ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Gabrielle Union makes us all feel really old

Being Mary Jane star Gabrielle Union takes issue with some of the tactics of those reporting on Hollywood. "The fact that I can do a press junket for a movie and people ask what's happening in my uterus says a lot," she tells Yahoo Style.

"They want 110 per cent of what you have to offer."

I sincerely hope she's talking about what she as an actress and celebrity has to offer, and not what her uterus has to offer, because that's just weird.

But she has some other things to talk about, too, like how she would cast a reboot of Bring It On.

Wait, hold on, that movie is 15 years old, and Union still looks pretty much the same as she did when she filmed it. Why would anyone be talking about rebooting it?

Anyway, hypothetically speaking, here's what she thinks: For her role? Keke Palmer, with Dakota Fanning taking over the Kirsten Dunst role and Selena Gomez stepping into Eliza Dushku's "bad-girl role." Way to make us all feel old, Gabrielle.

Lindsay Lohan

More legal woes for Lindsay Lohan

Did Lindsay Lohan forget some of her court-mandated obligations when she packed up and moved to London last year? That's what prosecutors worry, and they may be looking to lock her up if she can't prove she's completed the 240 hours of court-mandated community service she was assigned for her 2012 reckless driving case. Santa Monica Chief Deputy City Attorney Terry White says he doubts Lohan completed 80 hours of community service in nine days as documentation presented by Lohan's attorney on Wednesday claims. WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sam Smith wants the fame, but not the flaws

In a candid, far-reaching GQ Magazine interview, Grammy nominee Sam Smith reveals his desires to be a pop star — but not, you know, be a pop star. If that makes any sense. "I don't want to lose my mind or my humour. I want to be a pop star, but I also don't want to be a pop star," he says. "I will never act like some of the current pop stars have acted toward me. We can be friends, you know? We can. It's not a competition. There's space for all of us." Frustratingly, he does not name names, but who wants to make guesses as to which divas he's talking about?

Sam Smith

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Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter author Seth Grahame-Smith's new novel, The Last American Vampire, is now in stores. GETTY IMAGES

Fiction. Novelist, director, producer and screenplay writer Seth Grahame-Smith is also part of the writing team for this year's Academy Awards

Seth Grahame-Smith's life could be described as a mash-up. He's author of the best-seller Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter, and the followup — The Last American Vampire — is now in stores.

Grahame-Smith is also busy with several other projects, including his directorial debut on the film Something Wicked This Way Comes, writing and co-producing the sequel to Beetlejuice, writing two Lego movies and writing a pilot for CBS.

He's also on the writing team for this year's Academy Awards. In a recent interview, Grahame-Smith said the Oscars have always been a big deal in the Grahame-Smith household" and that he usually throws viewing parties when the awards are presented. This year, he'll be "in a tux, backstage. That'll be fun."

In a recent interview, the 39-year-old talked about his new book, juggling projects and teaching through entertainment.

Should you get credit for creating the mash-up?

I don't think that Pride and Prejudice and Zombies or Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter created the mash-up, I just think they popularized it. I think there were mash-ups before, and I think, there were certainly people blending genres, and writers way better than me and far longer ago, who were playing with the idea of mixing fantasy and horror or mixing science-fiction with romance. I think I just happen to do it in a very loud and obnoxious way and was lucky enough to do it a time when people were receptive to it.

You write about historical figures, vampires and zombies, but you do a lot of research for your books. There are facts in these stories.

I give you some medicine with your sugar. I give you a

little bit of real history — just enough so you know something about that time period so you can discuss it at a dinner party; as long as you don't go further than that and add the part where vampires start cutting each other's heads off and everything.

How do you keep track of your projects?

A typical day now might be: I work on some Lego movie stuff, I work on some Beetlejuice stuff and then I jump over here and work on Oscars, and then I jump back and I work on who knows what else, but it's great! I love being busy. I love the challenge of it, I love the engagement of it ... At some point all of this goes away and, you know, you get bounced out of the writing business or bounced out of Hollywood one way or another. Almost everybody does. So, I'm just trying to enjoy it while it lasts.

Do you ever procrastinate when you're writing?

I procrastinate all day. In 12 hours of sitting at the computer desk every day, I probably do 2-1/2 hours of writing, if I'm being generous. Because there are other things going on. There are phone calls to be returned, there are meetings to be had, lunches to go to, there are emails to browse through and then ... who doesn't love Twitter or Facebook or Reddit or Gawker or Gizmoto or Huffington Post or any of the 2,000 sites I read religiously every day, all day? You need to keep the writing muscles in shape.

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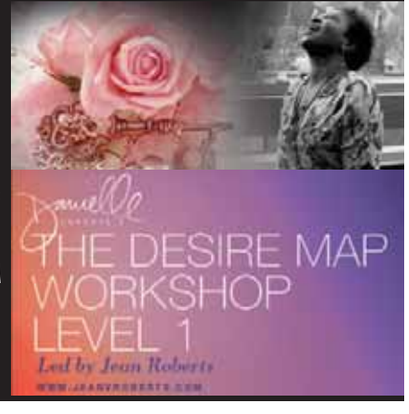

Right this way to a new lingerie

Style. Flamboyant or minimalist, here are the coming season's undergarment trends

The organizers of the Parisian trade show Salon International de la Lingerie presented some of the leading underwear trends for Fall-Winter 2015-2016 this week.

The season offers something for everyone, with lingerie that is sophisticated, seductive, simple, or all of the above.

Last year, an overriding trend emerged from the lingerie collections in Paris: "erotic glam."

Designers presented their undergarments as tools of seduction that were sexy, or even kinky, yet always glamorous and refined.

While this vision still shows through in some of the Fall-Winter 2015-2016 collections, there is much more diversity in the lingerie world this season.

Underwear brands have designed collections to suit every woman, from those who think seduction starts with comfort to those looking for extravagance above all else.

Madame Aime is pointing up minimalist chic this season in simple yet seductive pieces such as this partially sheer bodysuit.
MADAME AIME / AFP

The provocative '80s

From outerwear to lingerie, the styles of the '80s have influenced fashion for more than three decades now. But lingerie designers are taking things to a new level this year with eccentric, often unconventional pieces inspired by the decade of big hair. For the most part, this means amplified volume and flashy colours.

Sexy, seductive and exuberant, the woman of the '80s has long been represented in lingerie by French designer Chantal Thomass, who has never hesitated to redefine the feminine silhouette. This year, however, several other designers have taken on a similarly decadent style. Their collections are full of push-up bras, high-waist panties and corsets, all in high-end materials such as silk and lace, with refined accents such as jewels, Lurex embroidery or gold thread.

I.D. Sarrieri, for example, designed a bustier that places particular emphasis on the breasts and the hips, calling to mind Jean Paul Gaultier designs.

Huit has decked out its latest collection with silver thread, while Aubade chose to put lace in unexpected places, such as around the neck and in a garter belt that laces up around the waist.

Victoria's Secret keeps it simple with a toned-down baby-doll. $39.50, victoriassecret.com

'90s-style minimalism

On the other hand, some of the new collections reflect the minimalist styles of the '90s, playing up comfort and simplicity rather than showy decoration. Some designers are even presenting versatile items to be worn either as lingerie or as outer apparel, such as bras that can pass as crop tops or bandeaus. Still sexy, of course, these designs reflect the thinking that seduction is more about natural confidence than sophisticated adornment.

LA SENZA CHANNELS THE ENERGY OF THE 1980S WITH THIS BOLD NUMBER. *PUSH UP MERRYWIDOW, $59.50, LASENZA.CA*

Bodysuits and athletic-style bras (without cups) are among the leading examples of this trend, seen mainly in neutral shades (white, black, brown, grey, beige). Madame Aime and Fishbelly lead the charge, presenting sports-wear-inspired ensembles that simply hug the body's natural curves rather than reshaping them. AFP

Capsule collection

Louboutin and Von Teese launch lingerie line

Parisian shoe designer Christian Louboutin has teamed up with American burlesque star Dita Von Teese on a new capsule collection.

The seven-piece line includes a bra, bodice and suspenders, all featuring black lace and an all-over print designed by Louboutin, and also decorated with red Swarovski crystals.

The print includes Rococo-style scenes with sexy burlesque dancers, French maids and male lovers draped in sheets, as well as Louboutin's famous red-soled shoes, of course. The XXXtian pieces are available exclusively from Glamuse.com.

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Take a seat: A chair for all reasons

Decor question. Find me a chair that can be put to use in many areas of my home

I need more dining chairs for occasional dinner parties and I'd like to find an all-purpose chair to use in the dining or living room when extra guests need a seat. —Mark, via email

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

The perfect chair is one that sits discreetly at the dining table, looks pretty in a bedroom corner or helps host a large gathering in the family room. The prerequisites for this everything-to-everyone chair are comfort (for long dinners), style (for staring at morning and night in the bedroom), and petite (so it's easy to move around). Here's a lineup of the best.

Danish beauty

Designer Ceci Thompson's fresh approach on Danish style offers mix of wood and upholstery comfortable enough to sit or dine. Austin Chair, $299, CB2.com

Armed with options

Choose your wood stains and fabric colours for a custom chair with solid-looking style. Tokai Armchair, $1,995, Avenue-Road.com

Piping dream

Upholstered legs and white contrast piping gives this four-legged friend a sleek look. Valentin Arm Chair, $299, EQ3.com

Buttoned up

Tailored upholstery with classic button tufting equals great sex appeal. Spring Chair, $199, Structube.com

Got it plaid

Ever so handsome — just waiting for a dinner date. Henriksdal Chair, $99, IKEA.com

Deco delight

Sleek deco curves are welcome at any table or sitting area. Carol Channel Chair, $1,075, Elte.com

Wing into spring

It looks like bold primary colours are going to be big news for spring. Give your home an instant update with some of these bright, bird-themed interior accessories

AFP

Branch out

Italian lighting studio Foscarini is known for its playful and contemporary designs. Get the effect with the Birdie Floor Lamp, inspired by the form of a tree with a little branch ready to welcome a bird. Available from Milia Shop for approximately $503.

MILIASHOP

Let the feathers fly

Make your own bird mobiles for kids with this cute craft kit designed by illustrator Alice Melvin for the Tate. Available for approximately $15.

ALICE MELVIN/TATE SHOP 2014

Light takes flight

Lucellino, a combination of the Italian words for light (luce) and bird (uccello), is a quirky and humorous table lamp designed by Ingo Maurer. Available from The Conran Shop for approximately $642.

INGO MAURER/THE CONRAN SHOP

The sleekest of beaks

Japanese cast-iron studio Kamasada has created this minimalist and stylish bird ornament designed by craftsman Nobuho Miya. Available at the V&A Museum shop for approximately $180.

KAMASADA IRONWARE/ V&A ENTERPRISES LTD.

Wise choice

This Pickle cushion from U.S.-based studio Gray Pigeon is a cute way of brightening up interior spaces with its bold design and vibrant touches of red and yellow. Available from approximately $68.

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Pull out all the stops with these gems

Now that holiday decor is gone, I feel the need to bring a fresh sparkle to my place. Sometimes the easiest way to change the look of a kitchen cabinet, bedroom dresser or dressing room drawer is to add fashionable jewellery of the hardware kind. It's an inexpensive way to give new life to an old piece of furniture or boring cupboard doors. These jewel-like knobs gleam with possibilities.

KARL LOHNES
life@metronews.ca

Crystal clear

Look into your crystal ball. Amerock's Vintage Crystal/Brass Knob, $16.50 special order, HomeDepot.ca

Double agate

Two halves work together. Agate & Brass Cabinet Pulls, $49/set of 2, West-Elm.com

Amber alert

Traditional Amber Glass Knob, $15, RestorationHardware.com

Bolt from the blue

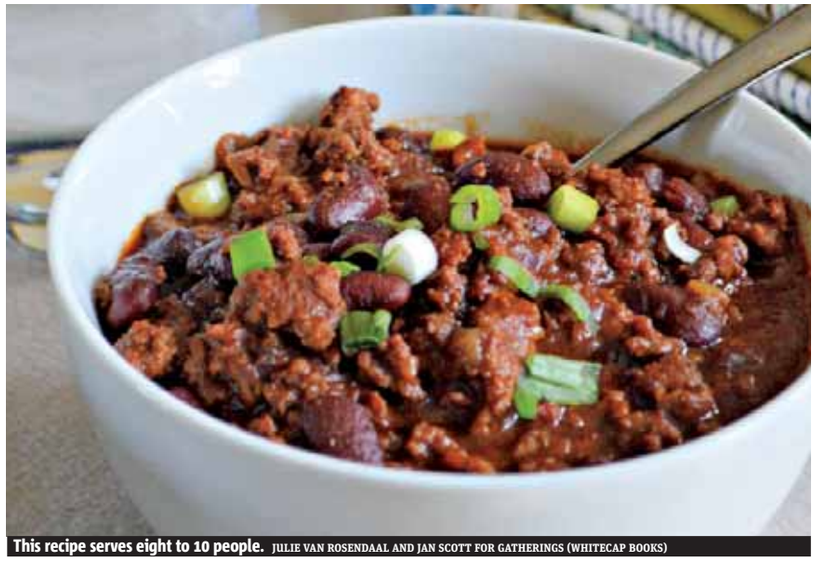
Water blue in a modern square shape. Square-Cut Glass Knob, $5, UrbanOutfitters.com

Jagged little pull

No two are exactly the same. Crown Quartz Knob, $24 each, Anthropologie.com

Where beer, beans and chocolate make sense

Dinner. Keep this Chocolate Chip and Stout Chili family friendly by containing the heat



This recipe serves eight to 10 people. JULIE VAN ROSENDAAL AND JAN SCOTT FOR GATHERINGS (WHITECAP BOOKS)

"This recipe comes from my friend Aimee, who originally sourced it from Nigella Lawson," writes Jan Scott in Gatherings, which she co-authored with Julie Van Rosendaal. "In my version, the flavours are mild, keeping it very family friendly, but you can certainly boost the heat by adding a fresh sliced and seeded chili pepper, as Nigella suggests in her original recipe.

"You can serve this as part of a casual Mexican-inspired buffet by adding baskets of crisp tortilla chips, sour cream, shredded cheese, fresh cilantro, pickled jalapeños, green onions and lime wedges, or just as it is alongside a floury dinner roll or hunk of cornbread."

1. Preheat the oven to 300 F (150 C). Heat the olive oil in a large ovenproof pot (with lid) and add the ground beef and sausage. Brown the meat on medium heat, breaking it up as it cooks.

2. Add the onion and garlic and cook until soft and translucent, about 8–10 minutes. Stir in the cumin, coriander, cinnamon, cardamom and chili powder; mix well to combine.

3. Stir in the tomato paste, ketchup, beans and crushed tomatoes; add the stout and bring the chili to a boil.

4. Once it starts bubbling, remove the pot from the heat. Sprinkle the chocolate chips over the chili, cover with the lid and transfer the pot to the oven, cooking for 3 hours. Check seasonings, adding salt and pepper if necessary.

RECIPE EXCERPTED FROM GATHERINGS (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY JULIE VAN ROSENDAAL AND JAN SCOTT

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp (30 ml) olive oil
- 2 lb (1 kg) lean ground beef
- 2 lb (1 kg) sausages, casings removed
- 3 medium onions, peeled and finely chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, peeled and finely chopped
- 2 tsp (10 ml) ground cumin
- 1 tsp (5 ml) ground coriander
- 1 tsp (5 ml) ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp (2.5 ml) ground cardamom
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) chili powder one 5 1/2 oz (156 mL) can tomato paste
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) ketchup
- three 14 oz (398 ml) cans red kidney beans, drained
- three 14 oz (398 ml) cans crushed or diced tomatoes
- one 16 oz (475 ml) can stout beer (such as Guinness)
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) semi-sweet chocolate chips
- salt and pepper to taste

Cookbook of the Week

Gather 'round for delicious eats

While other cookbooks focus on recipes, Gatherings also shines the spotlight on real situations that bring people together — casual weeknight dinners, baby showers, birthday parties, big family gatherings, game nights, date nights or even Sunday suppers. Not only does each section include recipes but also drink or cocktail, easy serving, decor and presentation suggestions. METRO

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San Francisco is constantly reinventing itself and offering something new for visitors. SAN FRANCISCO TRAVEL ASSOCIATION/CAN BALCIOGLU PHOTO

Sit on the dock of the bay

Destinations. San Francisco and Maui offer something for everyone when looking to get away

VAWN HIMMELSBACH
For Metro

This time of year has most Canadians dreaming about anywhere but home. Nowadays, though, travellers want more than tan lines — they are looking for adventure, culture and culinary experiences (and maybe a tan, too).

Two of this year's top travel destinations are not unfamiliar to Canadians, but they offer something for everyone, whether you are looking to get your heart racing or take it down a notch. And there's no need to bring a winter parka or toque.

The Golden Gate Bridge. Alcatraz. Pier 39. These are all must-dos in San Francisco, but this city is constantly reinventing itself and offering something new. It has a big-city feel, but is geographically small (only 49 square miles), so it's easy to get around, and the weather is mild year-round.

"Make sure and take a day to explore a neighbourhood — go to the Mission District and find a wonderful bakery or taqueria, or go to Dogpatch and The Museum of Craft and Design," said Laurie Armstrong, director of media relations for the U.S. and Canada with the San Francisco Travel Association.

Clement Street in Richmond "has to be the most international street in the city," Armstrong added, with cuisine ranging from Burmese and Cambodian to Russian and French.

For views of the bay, head to the Presidio, a former military post converted into an urban national park. With everything from a social club to hiking trails, it's worth a visit on Sundays for the Presidio Picnic, complete with food trucks and DJs. Or head to Treasure Island in the middle of the bay — once a naval base — for tastings at incubator wineries.

San Francisco has long had a reputation for its culinary scene — Michelin recently awarded Benu and Saison in the city's SoMa district the highest rating in its 2015 eating guide. Indeed, there are 42 restaurants in the Bay Area with Michelin stars.

But it's not all high-end dining. Head to San Francisco's diverse neighbourhoods for authentic eats, from dim sum in Chinatown to burritos in the Mission District — or check out weird food trends that one can only find in San Francisco, like peanut butter curry ice cream at Humphry Slocombe.

Take time to explore a neighbourhood when you travel to San Francisco. SAN FRANCISCO TRAVEL ASSOCIATION PHOTO

Maui. Natural beauty and natural delicacies

While San Francisco has long been known as a gastronomic trendsetter, Maui is starting to make a name for itself in the culinary world by going back in time.

The farm-to-fork movement is evident in many of the island's restaurants; the resort areas of Lahaina, Kaanapali, Kapulua and Wailea offer local delicacies from acclaimed chefs. But visitors can also find the ingredients used in their favourite dishes at Maui's plantations and farms.

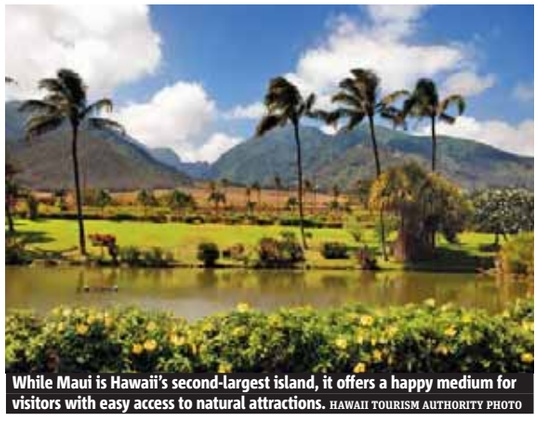
Take a tour of Oo Farm, owned by Chef James McDonald of PacificO, IO and the Feast of Lele. Milk a goat (or just learn about the cheese-making process) at Surfing Goat Dairy. Discover seasonal products such as ulu at Upcountry Farmers Market. Maui also has a number of farm-to-table culinary events worth planning a trip around.

"We're becoming a much more popular destination for culinary travel," said Charlene Kauhane, a consultant with the Maui Visitors & Convention Bureau. That being said, visitors still head to Maui for its natural beauty.

Maui is an outdoor playground, with more than 80 beaches and a combined shoreline of 120 miles. HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY PHOTO

Maui is an outdoor playground, with more than 80 beaches and a combined shoreline of 120 miles. But there's more to do than lie around a resort all day.

Navigate 600 curves and 54 bridges along one of the world's most scenic drives on the road to Hana, which hugs Maui's rugged eastern coastline. Only 52 miles, this road trip can take two to four hours, but offers stunning island views around every hairpin turn.



While Maui is Hawaii's second-largest island, it offers a happy medium for visitors with easy access to natural attractions. HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY PHOTO

Just south of Hana are the Pools of Oheo (part of Haleakala National Park) — tiered pools fed by waterfalls. After a dip, hike through forests of bamboo, or follow the Pipiwai Trail to the 400-foot Waimoku Falls. The park is home to Maui's highest peak at more than 10,000 feet above sea level — and while many visitors wake up early to watch the sunrise from the summit of Haleakala, there are plenty of hiking trails that offer more solitude; it's even possible to camp here.

While perhaps not as famous as Oahu's North Shore, Maui has its own big-wave surf spots, including Honolua Bay and Hookipa Beach in Paia. Peahi, or "Jaws," is known for monster waves up to 70 feet tall, generated by winter storm swells travelling over a barrier reef (a surf spot best left to the pros). Hookipa Beach is also considered the windsurfing capital of the world.

While Maui is Hawaii's second-largest island, it offers a happy medium for visitors, Kauhane said, with beaches, an urban scene and easy access to natural attractions.

"You can watch the sunrise on a dormant volcano and in the afternoon be back at the beach," she said.

VAWN HIMMELSBACH/FOR METRO

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NHL

Ovie, Holtby lead Caps over Pens

Alex Ovechkin scored twice to take the NHL lead in goals and Braden Holtby recovered from a mini slump to get his fifth shutout of the season as the Washington Capitals broke a four-game losing streak with a 4-0 win over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Wednesday.

Ovechkin had a tip-in goal in the first period and then scored from his customary spot in the left circle with a one-timer on a power play in the second. His 29 goals are one more than Rich Nash and Tyler Seguin. Eric Fehr and Mike Green scored in the third.

Holtby had allowed four goals in each of his last three starts. He stopped 27 shots to blank the Pens for the second time in a little over a month.

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Devils burn Leafs in a shootout

Jacob Josefson and Patrik Elias scored in the shootout and the New Jersey Devils rallied late to beat Toronto 2-1 on Wednesday night, extending the Maple Leafs' losing streak to a season-high seven games.

Cory Schneider made 29 saves through overtime and handled both Toronto shootout attempts as the Devils won for the fifth time in eight games (5-2-1).

Devils defenceman Adam Larsson scored the tying goal with 2:50 left in regulation.

James van Riemsdyk scored on a breakaway in the third period, and Jonathan Bernier made 22 saves in the loss.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flames on power play in talks for Richards

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Brian Costello
calgary@metronews.ca

The Flames have shown interest in making a deal with the Kings for Mike Richards, who has five seasons remaining in his contract. CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

Sitting at or near the bottom of the NHL in team payroll, the Calgary Flames have been in the driver's seat for a coupleof years now. The only question is when is a Flames general manager going to put the car in gear.

The fact the Flames were/are in discussions with the Los Angeles Kings about taking on a struggling former star with a horrible contract in Mike Richards suggests GM Brad Treliving has been out for a test drive. The time has never been better to turn on the ignition and see how many RPMs can be extracted.

In his final year or so with the Flames, former GM Jay Feaster liked to talk about the versatility Calgary had with a low payroll. The school of thought was the Flames could take on an unsavoury contract from another team if it meant getting a draft pick and/or prospect as part of the deal. Nothing ever materialized because the reality of a rising salary cap the following season gave ceiling teams an artificial out.

Then with Treliving at the helm at last year's draft, we heard about Calgary's proposed offer to Carolina to take Cam Ward and his bloated contract off the books if the Hurricanes included the seventh overall pick in the draft. That never came to fruition.

Now we're hearing Richards and his five-plus remaining seasons at too many million might wind up in Calgary because the Flames have the cap room and the organizational financial clout to make it happen. I applaud Treliving for at least entering that discussion.

Calgary is in a control position in this negotiation. If nothing materializes, the Flames are no weaker for it. The Kings, on the other hand, still have a big problem to deal with. Los Angeles can't move forward in its quest to win a third Cup in four seasons until it moves Richards. It's under this scenario the Flames can wait to extract a king's ransom in exchange.

I'd be holding out for a high draft pick, a prospect better than middling 2010 first-rounder Derek Forbort, and an unsavoury contract going the other way, or at least L.A. retaining some of Richards' salary.

If this comes to pass, maybe Treliving retains some of Richards' contract — making him more affordable — and flips him to another team. Or maybe Richards, still just 29, gets a second chance to remake his career in Calgary.

Analytic stats study

Corsi-for percentage shows the players whose team generates the most shot chances when they're on the ice versus shot chances for and against. Detroit's Pavel Datsyuk is No. 1 (60 per cent) among the 581 players who have played at least 250 minutes. Here are the top Flames.

404. Mikael Backlund, 47.9%
413. Mark Giordano, 47.8%
420. T.J. Brodie, 47.4%
423. Jiri Hudler, 47.4%
428. Josh Jooris, 47.3%

4 SPORTS

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metro

Super Bowl sideshow is clash of cornerbacks

Revis vs Sherman.
Past feuds, bragging rights will no doubt play on the minds of two of the game's best come kickoff time

Darrelle Revis long reigned supreme among NFL cornerbacks. Then came along this upstart Richard Sherman, who proclaimed himself the best and backed it up.

Now they get to state their case on the NFL's biggest stage: Revis' New England Patriots against Sherman's Seattle Seahawks in the Super Bowl. They have a bit of history, these two — a Twitter feud from a couple of years ago. The gist of it: Revis was the proven pro, and Sherman hadn't done enough yet to start crowing.

At Tuesday's media day, any animosity was buried. Each expressed respect for the other, although Revis referred to the fact that in Seattle's defence, Sherman plays only half the field. "Sherman, he plays left corner and he does great," Revis said. "He's great at what he does. I'm not really knocking him on what he does. He's a playmaker, and that's what he does for his team."

Cornerback, Revis said, is "by far" the hardest position to play in football. The handful of those who excel at the position may bicker, Sherman said, but they share a common bond.

"There's a respect level between elite cornerbacks in the National Football League," he said. "It takes a certain mentality to play at a high level in this game, to deal with the pressure, to deal with the intensity. There's a definite admiration."

Sherman's a talker: opinionated, self-assured. He says he cares little what people think of him. "It doesn't bother me too much, honestly," he said. "I have my own way of doing things, and it might not align with everybody, but I'm going to keep it that way."

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Darrelle Revis ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

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Soccer

Chile leaves U.S.A. out in the cold

Mark Gonzalez scored in the 66th and 75 minutes to lead Chile to a 3-2 win over the United States in an international friendly Wednesday that sent the Americans to their first five-game winless streak since 2007. The 27th-ranked Americans led 2-1 at halftime with goals by Brek Shea in the sixth minute and Toronto FC's Jozy Altidore in the 31st, either side of Roberto Gutierrez's 10th-minute equalizer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Bryant's season over after injury

Kobe Bryant is officially done for the season after having surgery to repair his torn right rotator cuff Wednesday. The Los Angeles Lakers also made it official that their superstar doesn't believe his career is finished.

Bryant is expected to need nine months to recover from his third straight season-ending injury. If Bryant meets that timetable, he could return before the start of the 2015-16 season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raptors cruise past Kings

Toronto Raptors forward DeMar DeRozan, right, drives to the net against the Sacramento Kings on Wednesday during their 119-102 victory. Greivis Vasquez and Jonas Valanciunas combined for 21 points in a torrid third quarter as the Raptors, enjoying a season-high night from the three-point line, defeated Sacramento to hand the Kings their seventh straight loss. THE CANADIAN PRESS

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You will say or do something controversial today and those who are not as open and honest as you won't like it. Too bad. Rock the boat a little.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Stand up for what you believe in and refuse to change your ways or your views simply to please those in authority. By all means pick a battle today.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Anyone who doubts you are a free-thinker won't doubt it much longer. In fact, what you profess to believe over the next 24 hours will mark you out as a maverick.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You need to get tough today, firstly with yourself for being far too wasteful of late, then with those who seem to believe that you exist only to make life easier for them.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You will either draw closer to someone today or you will drift so far apart that you are unlikely ever to get back together again.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Try not to make a big issue of something that is really quite trivial. If you are having problems on the work front take it as a sign that you are doing something wrong.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Because the sun is moving through the most creative and dynamic area of your chart, you won't find it hard to start something special.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
It does not matter how many mistakes you have made or how many times you have failed. It matters only that you are still alive and kicking and ready to rejoin the fray.

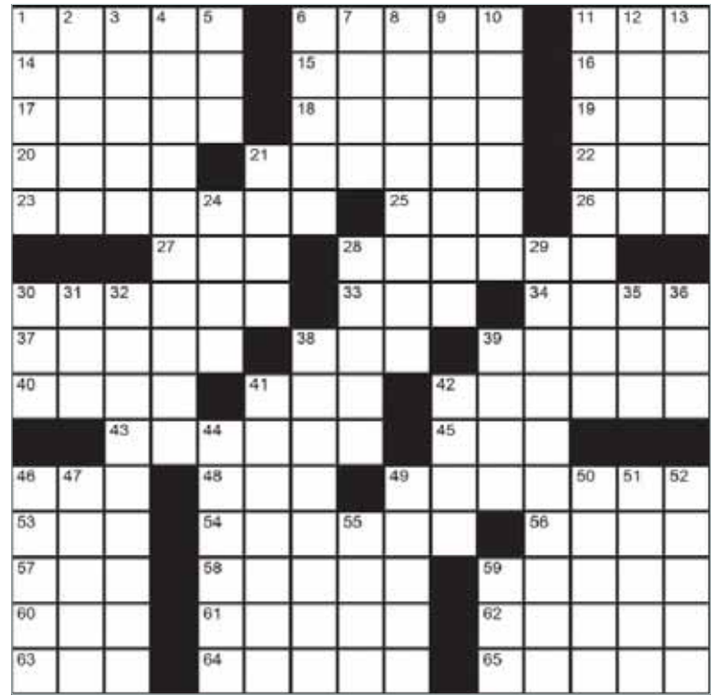
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You are at your best when dealing with people on a one-to-one basis, so forget about your chores and get out into the world and have fun.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The most important thing today, tomorrow and over the weekend is that you resist the urge to compare yourself to others. Set targets based on your own true desires.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The world is full of possibilities and each one of those is there for you to make use of. Others may say certain things cannot be done, but you must ignore them.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Put the past behind you and start again with a more positive attitude. Get over any guilty feelings you have about things you should have done.

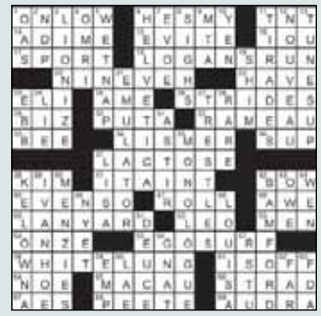
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. __ and potatoes
6. Hunks
11. Shirt
14. __ Adler ("The woman" Sherlock Holmes held in high regard)
15. "We're off __ the Wizard...": 2 wds.
16. Trip up
17. Late
18. Inner's opposite
19. Ms. Vardalos
20. Mideast chieftain, variantly
21. Spacecraft's landing unit
22. __-stick frying pan
23. Accelerate: 2 wds.
25. Oz character's coating
26. If I Didn't Care by The __ Spots
27. Director Mr. Anderson
28. Doesn't let the subscription expire
30. Saunters
33. Adam's __ (Water, colloquially)
34. Goes for
37. __ panels (Eco-house features)
38. The __ Who Loved Me (1977)
39. City in Ohio
40. Polar explorer Mr. Rasmussen
41. Not you, in Paris
42. Dan's The Blues Brothers (1980) role
43. The Scream artist Mr. Munch
45. French composer Francis
46. Fashionable
48. Picnic nuisance
49. Montreal theatre company
53. Ms. Ortiz
54. Salutation in Israel
56. Fill the position
57. Dog breed
58. Hurt __ __ by Little Anthony & The Imperials
59. Chant for Mr. Mister
60. Grand-__ (Acadian setting of Longfellow's Evangeline)
61. Kate & __ ('80s sitcom)
62. Hall & __
63. "Aye."
64. The Who album: Live at __
65. Lizard kind

Down
1. Positions
2. Lady and the __ (1955)
3. Mysterious
4. Winnipeg Jets captain: 2 wds.
5. Keyboard piece
6. Bend low
7. Noisy
8. Shrewdly
9. Direct route
10. Tranquil
11. Cdn. athlete Milos Raonic: 2 wds.
12. The huntress Artemis unintentionally slayed him
13. Comedian-created caper
21. Dishevel
24. Cervid
28. Sort of transit
29. Popular Canadian cooking show (on which host/chef Stephen had a great sense of humour) that featured Asian cuisine: 3 wds.
30. Inquire
31. My, in French
32. Government numbers spot in the phonebook: 2 wds.
35. Also
36. Audio (abbr.)
38. Can be alphabetized, for instance
39. Mr. Alda
41. Beneath-the-street access
42. Pre-HS
44. Fief holder in the Middle Ages
46. Glad
47. Habituate to hardship
49. Cryptologist's "crackees"
50. __-__-surface missile
51. An archangel
52. Ms. Witherspoon
55. Easy-going = __-back
59. Tree of Hawaii

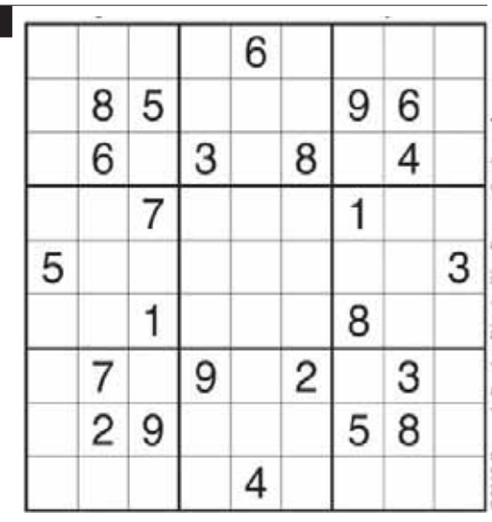
Yesterday's Crossword



Online
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

1	3	5	7	8	4	9	6	2
2	7	9	6	5	1	3	8	4
8	6	4	9	3	2	5	1	7
5	8	1	4	9	3	2	7	6
3	4	2	1	7	6	8	9	5
7	9	6	8	2	5	4	3	1
6	2	3	5	1	9	7	4	8
4	5	7	3	6	8	1	2	9
9	1	8	2	4	7	6	5	3

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